

ORIC Newsletter

University of Agriculture, Faisalabad

August 01 to 31, 2024



UAF AND WSU TO STRENGTHEN MUTUAL COLLABORATIONS



University of Agriculture Faisalabad five-member delegation visited the Washington State University in order to further strengthen collaborations between the two universities. It was also agreed upon that WSU wheat varieties set at UAF will be commercialized.

The UAF delegation members included Chairman, Dept of Plant Breeding and Genetics Prof Dr. Azeem Iqbal Khan; Director-Planning & Development Irfan Abbas, Department of

Plant Breeding and Genetics Associate Professor Dr. Rizwana Maqbool, Research Officer Dr. Ahmad Waqas and Arif Rehman, the Chief Food and Agriculture Section, Ministry of Planning, Development and Special Initiatives. During the wrap-up meeting with WSU International Office, UAF Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Iqrar A. Khan, online, thanked Prof Vice President for International Programs Paul Whitney, and US Ambassador (Ret.)/Senior Advisor to the Provost and Executive Vice President, WSU Dr. Asif J. Chaudhry for inviting. He said that

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this visit will further strengthen collaborations between the two universities and the exposure gained by the delegation will be of great value to the University.

In addition to extending collaboration in different areas, the Vice Chancellor proposed that the WSU Wheat Lines now need to be commercialized. Prof. Paul Whitney assured full support from his office for commercialization of WSU Wheat lines as well as collaboration in other areas like Animal Sciences, Arts and Humanities etc. Dr. Asif J. Chaudhry appreciated the committed efforts made by the UAF under the agreement with WSU. Dr. Kulvinder Gill endorsed the proposal made by the Vice Chancellor regarding commercialization of WSU Wheat Lines. The delegation had the following meetings/Visits to Departments/R&D Facilities/Sites including Green Houses/Fast Breeding Facility; Turf Grass Experiment Farm; PNW Farmers Cooperatives and associated infrastructure (Storage facility, Packing, Weigh bridge etc.) and visited PNW



Trials of Wheat and Chickpea; WSU Trials at Spillman Farm for Wheat/Chickpea; Live Demo of Combine Harvesters at Ruffle Farm (20,000 acres); Research & Technology Park at WSU, Visit of Long-Term Experiments (LTREs) at Cook Farm (264 acres) focusing on Canola-Wheat-Chickpea; Exposure visit to John Deere for Farm Machinery; Visit to WSU Library Archives regarding old material for UAF Food & Agriculture Museum, Visit to Seed Processing Plant; Visit to Spark Hall at WSU Academic Innovation Hub Building and meetings with Vice President for International Programs at WSU; Meeting with Asif J. Chaudhry, U.S. Ambassador (Ret.)/Senior Advisor to the Provost and Executive Vice President, WSU; Professor Paul Whitney, Vice President for International Programs at WSU; Professor Kulvinder Gill, Department of Crop and Soil Sciences, WSU; and Dr. William Schillinger (An LTREs expert from WSU).

FFC DELEGATION VISITS ORIC TO EXPLORE POTENTIAL AVENUES



The Business Incubation Center, UAF hosted a meeting with the Fauji Fertilizer Company (FFC). The session was focused on exploring potential avenues for the commercialization of UAF's innovative technologies. UAF talented faculty members presented groundbreaking products and solutions, showcasing the cutting-edge research being done at UAF.

The meeting was initiated with recitation of some verses from Holy Quran. The Convener of the Committee welcomed and apprised the members. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director BIC, briefed about background and agenda of the meeting. He invited researchers from UAF to pitch their innovative technology products to the FFC team.

Dr. Zubair Aslam, Associate Professor, Agronomy pitched vermi-compost. He discussed its nutrient content and role in sustainable agriculture. Dr. Muhammad Naveed, Associate Professor, ISES presented various biofertilizers, soil conditioner and bio-active sulphur. Dr. Saddam Hussain, Assistant Professor, Agronomy pitched innovative coating materials for fertilizers and discussed its potential to enhance fertilizer efficiency and reduce nutrient loss. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director BIC, also presented Pak-Bloomia Pro-Gro an innovative soil-less substrate for containerized nursery and plants production. The FFC team appreciated the innovative products pitched by UAF faculty and expressed keen interest in further exploring the commercial potential of these technologies. The FFC R&D Team will have an internal meeting with their marketing department to evaluate the market potential of the presented products and will come back for next round of discussion. Both teams agreed to explore more avenues for mutual cooperation. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled to discuss the commercialization of UAF Technologies in due course of time. Director ORIC Prof Dr M Jafar Jaskani thanked the FFC team for visiting UAF and ORIC.

BIC ORGANIZES AN AWARENESS SESSION ON AGRI FINANCING OF BoP

As per directions and vision of Vice Chancellor, the Business Incubation Center (BIC), UAF, successfully organized an awareness session on the Agri-financing Initiatives of the Bank of Punjab (BOP). The event was aimed at providing aspiring and established agropreneurs with valuable insights into the financial support available to them through BoP.

Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director, Business Incubation Center, UAF welcomed the participants and provided a brief overview of the BIC role in supporting entrepreneurship and innovation to faculty and student startups. Moreover, he gave a brief introduction to the different initiatives undertaken by the BIC to promote agribusiness development at campus.

Mr. Sarfraz Hussain, Head of the Agriculture Credit Division at BOP, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the various agri-financing schemes offered by the bank. He provided valuable information on eligibility criteria, interest rates, repayment terms, and other relevant details. Mr. Shahbaz (Regional Head Agriculture Credit Division Faisalabad) discussed potential avenues of collaboration. Mr. Imran Munawar, Research Officer, BIC, hosted the session. Dr. Khurram Zia, Manager Innovation & Commercialization and Mr. Farooq Hassan, Research



Officer, BIC, also contributed to successful organization of the event. The awareness session on agri-financing initiatives of BOP was a resounding success. It provided a valuable platform for aspiring and established agropreneurs to learn about the financial resources available to them and gain practical advice on how to leverage these resources to grow their businesses. BIC startups, faculty members, industry partners, and postgraduate students, farmers, and BoP ACD team attended this session which was followed by Q&A session. Afterwards, participants visited NIC followed by a meeting held at Conference room of BIC to explore possible collaboration avenues between UAF and BoP. The Business Incubation Center at UAF continues to play a vital role in supporting our young entrepreneurs through various initiatives like this.

UAF PARTICIPATES IN 2ND FOOD AND AG EXPO AT KARACHI

On behalf of UAF, the Business Incubation Center made a significant impact at the recently concluded Food and Agriculture Expo (FAE) in Karachi. This premier event, served as a platform to showcase the university's groundbreaking innovations in the food and agriculture sector.

Dr. Iftikhar Ahamad, Director of the UAF BIC, and Mr. Imran Munawar, represented the varsity with distinction. They actively promoted the university's innovative products and introduced the upcoming 1st AgriTech Park, a collaborative venture under the Special Technology Zones Authority (STZA).

FAE provided a global stage for Pakistan's rich culinary heritage and agricultural prowess. The expo attracted international buyers, creating unprecedented opportunities for collaboration and business partnerships. By participating in this event, BIC, UAF demonstrated its commitment to driving innovation and promoting Pakistan's



SUZUKI MOTORS JAPAN AND PAK-SUZUKI MOTORS DELEGATION VISITS UAF

The Suzuki Motors Japan intends to keep the vehicles moving, especially cars, by Bio CNG instead of petrol and electricity in Pakistan, for which experts and institutions specializing in all operations of biogas plants, including Agricultural University would be outreached. This was expressed by the Executive Vice President of Suzuki Motors Japan Mr. Kenichi Ayakawa, along with his 10-member delegation, during a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of Agricultural University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Prof. Dr. Iqar Ahmad Khan (Hilal Imtiaz) in his chamber.

On this occasion, Mr. Kenichi Ayakawa said that his organization is examining the possibilities of switching cars to Bio-CNG instead of electric ones in view of the large number of domestic animals available in Pakistan, which on the one hand, will provide consumers with cheap green energy and on the other hand, the cost of expensive cars running on thermal power will also be significantly reduced. He said that after substantial progress in India, his company is evaluating the feasibility of biogas plants already installed in the country to introduce biogas-powered cars in Pakistan. He said that his organization is setting up a pilot plant of 1500 cubic meters of biogas in Manga Mundi, Lahore, where the needs of 200 cars can be met initially through Bio CNG.

On this occasion, the Vice Chancellor of the University Professor Dr. Iqar Ahmed Khan said that the trend of running cars on electricity instead of petrol is gradually increasing in Pakistan, but he believes that if biogas is used in this regard, it will help the country. It will be seen as a new revolution in meeting energy requirements for cars. All countries are doing their part to limit carbon footprints for a sustainable solution to the global environment. In order to get significant help in fulfilling its international obligations, he said, using Bio CNG will promote the use of green, cheap and environment-friendly energy and ultimately help the country fulfill the international commitments. He expressed hope that the promotion of



environment-friendly and cheap alternative sources of energy can not only help in reactivating the closed industrial establishments in the country, but the organic manure obtained through this process will be used as an important alternative to chemical fertilizers. He said that the University's scientists have expertise in biogas technology and organic fertilization, which the doors of the University are always open for utilization and mutual benefits. Director ORIC Prof. Dr. M. Jafar Jaskani, Director ISES Prof. Dr. Ghulam Murtaza, Director PBI Prof. Dr. Anjum Zia, Dean Faculty of Agir. Engineering & Tech. Prof. Dr. Anjum Munir, Vice Chairman CIUAF Prof. Dr. Zahir Ahmad Zahir, Director External Linkages Dr. Kashif Saleemi, Dr. Muhammad Naveed, Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, Dr. Rizwan Tabasum, and Mr. Amir Saeed Rana were also present in the meeting.





2025

Global Undergraduate Semester Exchange Program for Pakistan

The United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan (USEFP) is pleased to announce the 2025 Global Undergraduate Semester Exchange Program for Pakistan.

The program is intended to promote mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of Pakistan. It provides full-time undergraduate students from Pakistan the opportunity to enrich their education and experience through one semester of full-time, non-degree academic study in the United States. The program will also expose students to the principles of social responsibility in the United States through a community service component.

Eligibility Criteria

- Pakistani citizens
- Applicants should be between 18-24 years old by the deadline
- Currently enrolled in a college or university in Pakistan and committed to returning to their home university following the completion of the program
- In their 14th year of formal education
- Applicants are required to submit current/most recent, and old transcripts with application

Grant Benefits

- Round-trip airfare
- Tuition and fees
- Housing and meals
- A limited allowance for books
- Accident and sickness coverage
- Monthly maintenance allowance

Applicants from underserved communities and/or with diverse backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

Ineligibility

- Dual U.S./Pakistani nationals or U.S. permanent residents
- Employees of the Fulbright organization, the U.S. Department of State, or USAID and their spouses, siblings, children, dependents, and parents
- Students who have been to the United States on a J-visa or a U.S. government-funded grant

Application Deadline:
**Wednesday,
September 25, 2024**

Please Note

Applications must be submitted online. Paper copies will not be considered. All application materials (including degrees, transcripts, certificates) must be uploaded with the online application. Reference letters and the Duolingo English Test will be required from the selected candidates.

To Apply

For application and other details, visit

• www.usefp.org

For more information:

■ undergraduate@usefp.org

Plagiarism or misrepresentation in an application will lead to disqualification at any stage of the program.

ORIC ORGANIZES CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS



Under the directive of the honorable Vice Chancellor, the Office of Research Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) organized a series of Capacity Building Workshops for early career Researchers (Assist. Professors & Lecturers) to motivate & sensitizing them for exploring new avenue for research funding locally & globally and transform research findings in to goods, services and products for the end users. These workshops continued for three days where faculty wise researchers participated and imparted live discussions with the resource persons. On each day, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Jafar Jaskani, Director ORIC highlighted the objectives of these trainings and current research portfolio of the university. He appreciated the efforts of researchers for uplifting UAF and ORIC rankings on the basic of their research projects, publications, citations, serving civil society in one or the other way, variety/patent registrations and commercialization of research outcomes. He anticipated that newly inducted faculty will maintain this pace & momentum as of their successors. Dr. Abdul Rashid, Manager Research Management highlighted various initiatives taken by ORIC and UAF framework for their implementations. The prime

focus of his presentation was hunting more and more research funding for the university from diversified sources as it was the life-line for this institute to ensure continuity of research activities. Ms. Aisha Arshad, Manager Ranking and Incentives, explained the ways and means how a faculty member may become a productive researcher and may be entitled for getting incentives. Dr. Khuram Zia, Manager, Innovation and Commercialization opened the house for commercial activities by patenting, trademarks, variety registration, protection of IP rights, consultancies and collaborative research models under the UAF commercialization policy. Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad, Director, Business Incubation Center (BIC) focused on faculty startups and various initiatives of BIC and legal aspects of company registration by faculty members through Security Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP). Through evaluation proforma, it has been revealed that sessions were considered very informative and productive for the researchers and they proposed that such sessions may continue for the awareness of the researchers at main campus as well as UAF constituent colleges. The participants will be awarded certificates.

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